

MINUTES COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING

2019 JUL 25 PM 2:13

Monday, September 11, 2017

Present: C. Bunyon; M. Cahalane, Vice-Chair; Chao-qiang Lai; E. Hamann; T. Dukas; M. Scali, Chair; J. Semuels; P. Solomon; J. Staton; Nava Niv-Vogel, Director

Absent: T. Olson, J. Singler

Guest: Donald Mercier

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Maryann Scali

**Guest Speaker** Barbara Selwyn, Director Cambridge at Home was unable to attend. Will try again for October. Cambridge at Home is being renamed to be Cambridge Neighbors.

**Minutes for July 10, 2017** were accepted with no corrections.

**Senior Citizen Concerns:** Discussion continued with the issue of changing Belmont Property tax bills to notify property owners in a more prominent manner of options for obtaining tax relief. Donald Mercier felt should use own real estate first before getting a tax deferment. MCOA is best way to get tax deferment. He wanted the sense of the COA Board as to what they could do. Nava suggested that if interested in being part of MCOA Board to let her know and she will let them know. Maryann will call Assessors to see where they are going with it. Donald will also check with the Assessors.

**Directors update:** Nava updated us on the changes in funding for Title 3 services at Springwell. They are rethinking how to fund rides to medical destinations that they don't provide. They decided to give each COA some funds towards providing this transportation. Belmont will get \$3450 this year. After careful analysis this looks like it will be enough money. Belmont will be using Veterans and McCues taxis for this service. It was **Moved and Accepted that the Board accept the \$3450 contract from Springwell for current year.**

It was recommended that public officials talk to town residents face to face and send information through the electric bill about ways to keep the Town affordable and help keep Seniors in Town.

Belmont will have a team for the Alzheimer Walk on September 23 for the first time. This is part of a regional effort. There has been a good response.

**The Board** wanted the minutes to show their consensus of *"How lucky we are to have Nava"*.

**The Friends of the COA** wanted to remind everyone that the **Al Natale Concert** will be this Thursday, September 14 from 7 – 9 pm. Crafts Fair is the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

**Springwell** will have a special anniversary celebration in November.

Not ready yet to make report on Long-range Plan/Vision.

Lunch with School Superintendent went well. He was very welcoming and wants to work with seniors. He hopes to get the senior swim program back soon.

**New Business - Discussion Planning Board idea of combined new library and senior housing:**  
The idea of a combined library and senior center to be built on the existing Belmont Car Wash site was discussed and the following statement was approved.

*It is the unanimous opinion of the COA Board that the idea of placing the Library with Senior Housing in Waverley Square's car wash location is totally inappropriate. It is a very congested area and inappropriate for seniors.*

**Renaming Newsletter:** Following a discussion and several suggestions the consensus of the COA Board was to stay with the current name of **Senior Notes**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting is Oct. 2 and Tomi Olson will be the secretary.

Ethel Hamann